



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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February 11, 2020

VIA SHAREPOINT

The Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Stefanie Ashford*
Agency Tracking No.: 2018-1506

Dear Ms. Duhon:

Please find attached *Charges* to be filed on behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics in the referenced matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth W. Barrouquere".

Elizabeth W. Barrouquere
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Stefanie Ashford
440 N. Foster Driver
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(Via certified mail no. 70180360000076690416)

Ms. Stefanie Ashford
16521 Chadsford Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
iamstefanie@icloud.com
(Via U.S. Mail and e-mail)

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

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DOCKET NO.

IN THE MATTER OF

STEFANIE ASHFORD

AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2018-1506

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, on July 18, 2019, voted to and does hereby file the following charge(s):

1.

In 2015, Stefanie Ashford was appointed to serve as a Board Member for Laurel Oaks Foundation d/b/a Laurel Oaks Charter School in Baton Rouge.

2.

On July 1, 2016, Laurel Oaks Foundation was granted a Type 2 Charter by the Louisiana Board of Education and Secondary Education (“BESE”) to operate Laurel Oaks Charter School.

3.

On May 31, 2018, Stefanie Ashford was elected Chairman for the Laurel Oaks Charter School Board.

4.

On September 25, 2018, Stefanie Ashford resigned as a Board Member for Laurel Oaks Charter School.

5.

On November 26, 2018, the Laurel Oaks Charter School Board approved a resolution naming Stefanie Ashford as the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Laurel Oaks Charter School effective September 25, 2018.

6.

Stefanie Ashford's salary as Chief Executive Officer was \$2,166.67 bi-monthly, for an annual salary of \$52,000.

7.

La. R.S. 17:3996B provides that a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades: (20) Code of Governmental Ethics, R.S. 42:1101 et seq.

8.

La. R.S. 42:1121A(2) provides the no former member of a board or commission shall, for a period of two years following the termination of her public service on such board or commission, contract with, be employed in any capacity by, or be appointed to any position by that board or commission.

9.

La. R.S. 42:1153B provides with respect to penalties:

Upon a determination that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics ... the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

10.

La. R.S. 42:1155 provides with respect to penalties for illegal gain:

If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.

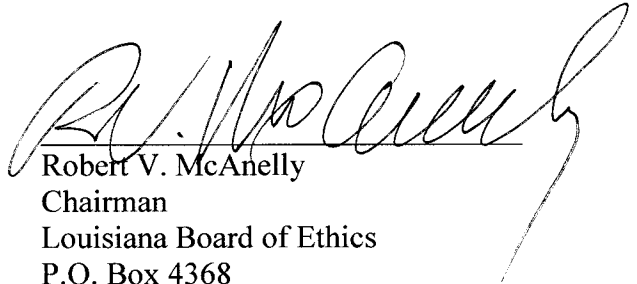
11.

Based on the foregoing, **Stefanie Ashford**, violated La. R.S. 42:1121A(2) by virtue of her appointment and subsequent employment as Chief Executive Officer for Laurel Oaks Charter School within two years of her resignation as a Board Member for Laurel Oaks Charter School.

13.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C (3)(b)(iv), the Board designates David M. Bordelon and Tracy Barker as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine Stefanie Ashford has violated La. R.S. 42:1121A(2) with respect to the foregoing counts; (c) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1153; and (d) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1155.

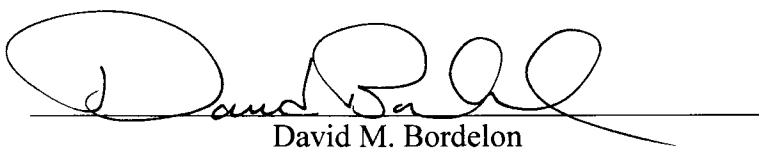

Robert V. McAnelly
Chairman
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent via registered/certified mail, and to the attorney of record via electronic mail, on this 11th day of February, 2020.

RESPONDENT: Stefanie Ashford
440 N. Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

ATTORNEY: None



David M. Bordelon
Trial Attorney